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OLC 72-1114
30 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. George Berdes, Staff Consultant,
Subcommittee on National Security Policy and Scientific
Developments of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

1. Mr. Berdes had called me during the week and told me about a luncheon he had had with other staffers from various offices in the House where the subject of possible complicity of CIA in internal political activities had been discussed. In meeting with him today he told me the staffers were rather senior types from different offices who were concerned about the strong-arm methods that have been used in Puerto Rico to break up a rally of independence movement people. Although Berdes was not specific, the rally may have been related to the question of the return of an island used for bombing and targeting practice by the U.S. Navy. I thanked Mr. Berdes for the information and offered to join him for lunch if I could be of help to him in his defense of the Agency on a future occasion with the same group.

2. Mr. Berdes, as a separate matter, told me that the Committee has finalized their report on "National Security Policy and the Changing World Power Alignment" and published it under the date of 25 October 1972. He told me the report is based on testimony given before the Committee in hearings held May, June, and August of 1972 which had led the Committee to a recommendation among others "to enact legislation to require the Central Intelligence Agency and the intelligence staffs of other executive departments and agencies to report their relevant studies and intelligence assessments to appropriate congressional committees in executive session and to qualified staff members."

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3. I inquired whether the Committee had felt that there had been any deficiency in the reports by the Agency in the executive session briefings provided during this last year. Mr. Berdes said that Chairman Zablocki, who chaired the Subcommittee, was most complimentary of the briefings that had been provided such as the one given by Mr. Duckett, DDS&T, on MBFR.

4. I indicated that the Director has always been available and we believe has been completely responsive to any request by Chairman Morgan or Representative Zablocki and that we would hope that the arrangements that have been made in the past on an informal basis might be continued with the Committee. I stated that legislation requiring such briefings would in all probability be resisted by the Executive.

5. I discussed briefly with Berdes H. R. 10204, by Representative Mazzoli; and H. R. 16334, by Mrs. Abzug; and S. 2224, by Senator Cooper; similar bills "To amend the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, to keep the Congress better informed on matters relating to foreign policy and national security by providing it with intelligence information obtained by the Central Intelligence Agency and with analysis of such information by such agency" and the Agency reports to the Congress concerning these bills.

6. Mr. Berdes told me that he will keep me up-to-date on any further considerations on this matter. By the present Committee staff lineup, this should continue within his assigned responsibility.



Assistant Legislative Counsel

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